



**U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office Tampa**



**MSO Tampa Commercial Parasail Vessel Safety Workshop; 21JAN04
Meeting Minutes**

1. On 21JAN03, MSO Tampa hosted a Commercial Parasail Vessel Safety Workshop. The goal of the meeting was to provide a venue for parasail industry members to discuss and promote parasail vessel safety.
2. In attendance were over 120 commercial parasail operators from 55 different companies located throughout the country, including the entire state of FL, parts of CA, TX, NC, NJ and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also in attendance were representatives from local Law Enforcement, FWCC, Parasail Insurance Companies, Parasail Safety Organizations as well as members from other CG Units (MSD Marathon, West Palm Beach, Group Key West and MSO Charleston).
3. Local Media also covered the event. All reports were positive and highlighted MSO Tampa's efforts to promote parasail vessel safety in a non-regulatory manner and through the development of partnerships.
4. The workshop consisted of two segments.
 - a. During the first segment, MSO Tampa gave a presentation that included the following:
 - (1) The CG's role in commercial parasail operations (Inspected and Un-inspected Vessel requirements, Licensing, Drug Testing Programs and Marine Casualty Reporting).
 - (2) G-MOA's Analysis of Parasail Vessel Casualties ('92-'01).
 - (3) MSO Tampa's Lessons Learned from investigated parasail Marine Casualties.
 - (4) The Parasailing Industries current initiatives to self-regulate.
 - (5) The potential of upcoming Florida parasail regulations (that two State of Florida Legislative Representatives are concerned and interested in pursuing possible state regulations).
 - (6) MSO Tampa's initiative to create a Voluntary Commercial Parasail Vessel Inspection Program and the solicitation of industry volunteers to take part in a MSO Tampa "Developmental Team" to create/ recommend program requirements.
 - b. The second segment of the meeting included a General Safety Discussion facilitated by a member of the Florida Sea Grant Organization. The intent of this Safety Discussion was to give the meeting participants an opportunity to express their concerns and recommendations as it pertained to the promotion of parasail safety. Ultimately, it was intended that the participants would come to a consensus on key issues or initiatives the parasailing industry should strive for in the future. The participants successfully concluded that, among other things:

- (1) Operational and Safety Standards should be created, agreed to and followed by all operators.
 - (2) Efforts, through operational standards, should be set to promote the industries insurability and lower the presently high insurance rates.
 - (3) The industry should organize under one organization to create the Safety Standards and to act as one voice when communicating with insurance companies and possible State/ Local Regulatory bodies that are interested in creating parasail regulations.
 - (4) Most importantly, the group agreed that they initially would form under and support an existing Parasail Safety organization, that being the Profession Association of Parasail Operators (PAPO).
5. The workshop was an overall success. The CG was able to present its message in the promotion of parasail vessel safety, and the participants were able to identify key issues that they face together as an industry. They also identified ways or methods to unite under one organization (for the time being) in an effort to act together as they move forward. It is hoped that MSO Tampa and the industry use this meeting as a springboard for safety initiatives and continue to keep the momentum going for the future.
6. Future Actions:
- a. MSO Tampa will send an e-mail to the workshop participants, thanking them for attending, and advertising that MSO Tampa will post parasail information on its web page.
 - b. MSO Tampa will post on its web page for all operators to review the:
 - (1) Meetings minutes,
 - (2) Key industry issues identified by the participants,
 - (3) MSO Tampa's parasail vessel and CG involvement presentation,
 - (4) MSO Tampa's parasail Marine Casualty Lessons Learned,
 - (5) G-MOA Marine Casualty Analysis Report.
 - (6) Links to PAPO and Parasail Safety Council
 - (7) Other Misc. Parasail Safety Info, such as existing State and other Countries parasail regulations.

In addition, MSO Tampa will start its Voluntary Commercial Vessel Examination Program "Developmental Team" meetings within the next few weeks.